(d) if so, how Government propose to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) As per the latest estimates of poverty for 1993-94 by the Planning Commission, 37.27% of the population in rural areas is below poverty line.

(b) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) and National Social Assistance Programme are the major ongoing schemes in rural areas of the country;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government is constantly endeavouring to improve the effectiveness of the programmes for rural development.

Development of rural infrastructure

2258. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main fields where the Ministry of Rural Development is working for rural development;

(b) the Government's plan to develop rural infrastructure; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to develop agriculture and industry in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) Rural poverty alleviation, Wasteland development and Rural drinking water supply and sanitation are the main fields where the Ministry of Rural Development is working for rural development.

(b) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Watershed developments projects being implemented by the Ministry would help, inter alia, to develop rural infrastructure.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Poor implementation of land consolidation cases

2259. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of poor implementation of Land Consolidation Cases in States;

(b) if so, the steps proposed by Government to ensure uniform implementation of the law by all the States;

(c) whether Government are also aware that large chunks of land allotted to weaker sections of society for habitation purposes, have been forcibly occupied by social miscreants; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government for restoration of such land to the actual allottees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In land consolidation, substantial progress has been made in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Progress has also been substantial in the State of Maharashtra. Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan are the States where some work has been done, while experimental work has been done in Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. Not much work has been done in Assam, Orissa and West Bengal, though there are enabling legislations. A National Committee on Consolidation of Land Holdings has been constituted by Government of India for formulating a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Consolidation of Land Holdings for assisting the States.

(c) and (d) No such complaints have been received by the Government of India.

Zonal offices of CAPART

2260. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to states:

(a) the number of CAPART Zonal Offices opened by now in the various stages;

(b) the relationship between the Head Offices and the Zonal Offices in the working of CAPART; and

(c) the amount released so far to the North-East region State-wise alongwith the names of beneficiaries/NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) CAPART has opened 9 Zonal offices.

(b) The zonal offices which are called as Regional Committees (RCs) of CAPART have been given the mandate of sanctioning the projects upto the outlay of Rs. 10.00 lakhs after observing all the essential formalities and programme norms. Regional Committees are chaired by persons of eminence and acknowledged standing from the voluntary Sector and with a senior CAPART official as Member Convenor of the RC. The Member Convenor, in-charge of the RC is an officer of the Council and is responsible to the Director General, for the day to day functioning.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.